

October 7, 2011

In the wake of questionable spending by the Executive Branch, Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) introduced H.R. 3121, the "Reclaiming Oversight of the Executive Branch Spending Act".

The bill would require that all Federal spending over \$100M be explicitly approved by Congress, rather than the current situation whereby Congress appropriates money within broad funding categories and gives the Executive Branch the freedom to spend vast amounts of money with essentially no Congressional oversight.

"The only vetting of these programs happens after the money has already been spent. Congress needs to assert itself and ensure that all programs are properly vetted and eligible to receive funds," said Barrow. "The old carpenter's rule still applies: measure twice, cut once."

Citing the loan guarantees given by the Executive Branch to the now bankrupt company Solyndra as an impetus for introducing the legislation, Barrow noted that Congress has an affirmative obligation to determine where taxpayer dollars are spent.

"There's too much partisan gotcha in Washington and not a lot of work taking place. It is Congress's job to make sure the people's money is being spent ethically, efficiently, and in the best interests of our country," said Barrow. "Congress has not fulfilled its responsibilities."

The legislation requires that Congress consider all such funding within 30 days of the request.

###